REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

On page 2 of the Action, claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

In reply thereto, applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The specification, page 12, lines 4-15, describes that "Even if the engaging section between the pressure member and the terminal or the engaging piece is not formed by parallel surfaces (engaging surface extends in the rotational axis as in the example of Figs. 1 and 2) as in the illustrated figures, it can be formed by rectangular surface to the rotational axis. For example, if the type in Fig. 1 is taken as an example, the groove 17 of the pressure member can be designed to be narrow as the pressure member rotates towards the open position so as to enable to push tightly the terminal at inner surface of the groove at the open position. The tightly pushing force works as engaging force." That is, if the groove (17) is tapered toward the operating section (16), the terminal is pressed by the side walls of the tapered groove as the pressure member rotates toward the open position (Figs. 1(A)). The pressure between the side walls of the groove (17) and the end of the supporting arm (4) of the terminal (2) is the engagement force which holds the terminal at the open position. The engaging sections (contact surfaces between the side inner walls of the groove and the end of the supporting arm of the terminal) are in a plane perpendicular to the rotational axis (18A).

For these reasons, applicant believes that claim 3 is sufficiently supported by the specification and respectfully requests that claim 3 be examined on its merit.

On page 2 0f the Action, claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipate by Hashiguchi et al.

In reply thereto, applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

As clearly defined in claims 1-4, applicant's invention comprises a plurality of terminals (2) arranged in the housing (1), the pressure member (15) rotatable about the rotational axis (18A), and a plurality of engaging sections (10 and 17A) provided on the terminals and said pressure member for holding the pressure member at the open position by an engaging force generated by concerted movement of the terminals and the pressure member. Since the pressure member is supported by a plurality of engaging sections which can be provided anywhere at desired intervals in the area where the terminals are present, the pressure member is firmly held at the open position.

With respect to the prior art, Higashiguchi et al. discloses a cable connector, comprising terminals (13) fixed in a housing (12), a handle (14) rotatable at a pivot portion (16). The handle is provided with protruding portions (22) at both ends thereof and the insulator is provided with protrusion-receiving portions (23) at positions corresponding to the respective protruding portions to engage with the protruding portions (column 3, line 55 to column 4, line 1).

However, Higashiguchi does not discloses or suggest any engaging section provided on the terminal and

the pressure member for holding the pressure member at the open position.

The Action states that the sections of some of the terminals can be considered bearing sections, while sections 17 of the rest of the terminals can be considered engaging sections. The Action also states that in Fig. 2 of Higashiguchi, the pressure member is held in the open position by engagement between 17 and 21.

However, Higashiguchi describes in column 3, lines 46-54 that "The handle 14 is provided with cam portion 21, each of which is positioned in the concavity 17 of each pivot portion 16 when the handle 14 is joined with the insulator 12. . . . In this manner, the cam portion 21 of the handle 14 are engaged with the pivot portions 16 so that the handle 14 is rotatable around the pivot portions 16". Thus, Higashiguchi does not disclose or suggest that the pressure member is held in the open position by engagement between 17 and 21. Fig. 2 (cross-sectional view of an essential part of the cable connector of Fig. 1 at its middle portion) shows that the handle (14) is rotatable around the cam portion (21).

Higashiguchi also describes in column 3, line 55 to column 4, line 1 that "The handle 14 is further with protruding portions 22 at both ends in the right and left directions. On the other hand, the insulator 12 is provided with protrusion-receiving portions 23, each of which expands upward, at the positions corresponding to the respective protruding portions 22. Each protrusion-receiving portion 23 is provided with a protrusion engagement groove 24, which works as an engagement portion for engaging with the corresponding protruding portion 22

of the handle 14. When the handle 14 is open at the first position as shown in Figs. 1 to 3, the protruding portions 22 of the handle 14 engage with engage with the protrusion engagement grooves 24 of the protrusion-receiving portions 23 of the insulator 12, respectively, to hold the handle 14 at the first position". That is, in Higashiguchi, the protruding portion (22) of handle and the protrusion-receiving portion (23) of the insulator are engaging sections for holding the handle at the first position (open position). Fig. 3 (cross-sectional view of an essential part of the cable connector of Fig. 1 at its end portion) shows that protruding portion holds the handle at the open position by engagement with the protrusion-receiving portion at the end portion of the handle.

However, the protrusion-receiving portion is not provided in the terminal but in the insulator (housing), while applicant's engaging section (10) is provided in the terminal. Also, in Higashiguchi, the engagement for holding the handle is made only at both the ends of the handle, while applicant's engagement is made anywhere of the pressure member in the area where the terminals are present.

For these reasons it is submitted that applicant's invention recited in claims 1-4 is patentable over Higashiguchi et al.

On page 2 of the Action, it was noted that claim 4 would define over Hashiguchi et al and all other art of record if the language suggested by the Examiner is added.

In reply thereto, applicant has amended claim 4 as suggested by the Examiner, for which applicant thanks him.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that this application be reconsidered, claims 1-4 allowed, and this case passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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